



August, 2022

Accordion Talk Newsletter

www.rosecityaccordionclub.org

President's Message

Fran Maddox

This newsletter looks a lot different from the past few months. I bought an iMac and found there is one glitch! Microsoft includes Office 365 on the Mac except for Publisher, which I used for the newsletter. My newsletter mentor, Laura Niland, recommended a program called Parallels. It, however, works on all Macs **except** the new iMac that I have! My PC is so incredibly slow and downloading pictures is nothing short of a nightmare so please bear with me as I use good old Word to create the monthly newsletter.

The August meeting was our annual "picnic meeting" held indoors. Marlene Meissner, our secretary will have an update later in this newsletter about the meeting. It was a delight to see so many members come and join in the music circle led by Kathy Grambsch. Our experiment of working on two part songs only seemed successful. Because I knew there was a piano in this facility I wanted to play two of Mark Greathouse's compositions: "Daydreams" and "The Sparrow". These songs were written by Mark and arranged by Lynn Haldeman. This was an honor to play his songs. You can find them on his website, greathouseofmusic.com. He writes pieces for piano and accordion. Such talented people in our midst.

The RCAC board met Monday, August 8 at Delette Huffman's home in Canby. It was a full agenda with two members "zooming" in as they were away on vacation. One of the discussion topics was our 2023 Accordion camp, scheduled June 4-9 at Collins Retreat Center. The camp committee met last week to finalize the registration form and information. They will go out September 1 via email. As you all know prices have gone up and Accordion Camp is no exception. Our goal is to keep the price as affordable as possible with the highest quality of conductors and instructors. The 2023 conductors will be Gabe Hall Rodrigues and Gail Campanella. Instructors will be Toby Hanson and Dee Langley. More information on a changed format will be coming out later. We are excited about the new format. We're also updating methods of payment (getting into the 21st century)! There is limited space at our camp, so if interested respond early.

The donated music continues to be sold. Our Treasurer, Sue Schwab, reported that approximately \$1000 has been raised with the music donated by Velma Conte, Jimmy Bianca and Dieter Nachmann. The spreadsheet is still available if anyone is interested in looking it over again. I've had two more calls this month from people who want our club to sell more music. To everyone's relief—I said no! We appreciate folks thinking of us but we've got plenty to deal with now. One lady even called with an old accordion that her dad had and wondered if we'd take it. By now I have become adept at saying "no, sorry". The good thing is that people do check out the website though and make contact.

It is wonderful to see people reaching out to our club to play at their events. St. Joseph's Winery in Canby sent an email asking for accordion players. A Scappose retirement facility as well as Miramont Pointe in Clackamas reached out also, and these events have been filled. Thanks to those who are playing.

We would like to have phone numbers for all members in addition to your email addresses. If you haven't sent your numbers to me, please do so as soon as possible.

There will be no meeting in September, as members are busy with Oktoberfest events. We will meet again October 15. Kathy Grambsch will lead the music circle again to work on the August songs plus she may send one more. Notice there is a new "corner" in the newsletter: Music Theory Corner. Various musicians will contribute. If you are interested, let me know.

It's been a wonderfully warm (hot) summer. This has been especially nice after all the rain this spring. Enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Saturday, August 20 Meeting Summary

Submitted by Marlene Meissner

The monthly meeting began with music circle at 11:15 at the Oak Grove Community Center in Milwaukie. Kathy Grambsch conducted Londonderry Air (two parts) and Can't Help Falling In Love With You (four parts). Members were very excited about the opportunity to focus on fewer pieces and improve the level of play.

Music circle was followed by lunch, accompanied by beautiful piano solos by Fran Maddox.

After lunch, Fran made the following announcements:

- Members were asked if they want to continue holding special meetings (e.g. holiday meeting) at the Oak Grove Community Center. The consensus was to hold all meetings at the Milwaukie Public Safety Building in the future.
- There was a discussion about plans for the meeting in December. Bobbie Ferrero will make a spiral ham and others will bring dishes to supplement. A sign-up sheet will be available at a later date.
- Fran asked Marlene Meissner to provide an update on the volunteer accordionist opportunities at the Mt. Angel Oktoberfest. Marlene reported that all slots have been filled at this time and final plans are being made.
- Fran confirmed with Sue Schwab, Treasurer, that over \$1,000 has been received by club in contributions for music that has been donated to the club.

Jeff Nelson announced that he will be participating in a band concert to benefit The Canby Center in Canby on Saturday, August 27, from 11:00-1:00.

Kathy Grambsch noted that members may wish to consider joining the Accordionists and Teachers Guild (ATG) at atgaccordions.com. They offer a variety of workshops and there is also a cookbook available. Kathy also noted that she has recently received numerous songs arranged by Anthony Galla-Rini and Joe Morelli. More information will be made available later about these arrangements.

After announcements, the following solo numbers were performed:

- Wayne Nelson – Love Comes Softly
- Larry McCullough – My Heart Belongs to Daddy/Willow Weep For Me
- Bob Myers – Mr. Sandman/My Blue Heaven
- Wayne Tiusanen - Jolly Woodchopper/German Medley
- Kathy Grambsch - Happy Mother's Day
- Bobbie Ferrero/Coreen Bergholm – Wheels/Orlivasen (both duets)
- Marlene Meissner – Madelon/Katharin
- Sue Schwab – 12th of Never/Under the Boardwalk
- John Mohney – Hawaiian Wedding Song/The Blues from An American in Paris
- Mark Greathouse – Barbara Polka/I Left My Heart in San Francisco
- Fran Maddox – Close To My Heart/Stepping Along March
- Delette Huffman – Dreams of The Night



Left to right:

Fran Maddox,
Delette Huffman,
Les Segzwithy,
Wayne Nelson,
Larry McCullough,
Wayne Tiusanen
and Kathy
Grambsch.



Mary and Don Devlaeminck (new members) in the background;
Mark Greathouse and Jeff Nelson



Marlene Meissner, Susan Schwab, David Beer and John Mohney



Les, Bob Meyers and Larry listening to an accordion solo.



Coreen Bergholm (in back, came from Astoria) and played duets with Bobbie Ferrero (in background). Wayne playing and beside him Kathy. Pat Schwab (Sue's husband) in background with their granddaughter.

Next Meeting: Please note the date change!

October 8

At regular meeting site: Public Safety Building in Milwaukie

Time: 12:00 pm—Music Circle (Kathy Grambsch) Songs TBA

1:00 pm—Meeting and Solo play

Occasionally we'll pass on information about local teachers of accordion

Courtney Von Drehle, Milwaukie, OR
503-915-4743 cvond@teleport.com

Accordion Technician

David Beer, 971-409-0237

www.squeezeboxsurgeon.com; SE Portland; By appointment only

Member Activities

Keiserfest Parade

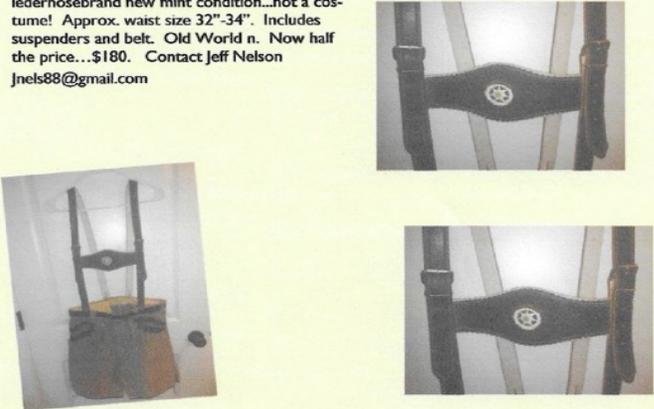


Marlene Meissner played an “air accordion” on a float in the Keiserfest Parade on August 13. They recreated a scene from “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off”. Pictured with Marlene are members of Edward Jones Company’s office in Keizer, the float sponsor. The float won a trophy for “Most Humorous”. This was their first award. What fun!

Fran Maddox playing for the GROW members August 28. GROW meets at the German House on 57th and Sandy Blvd. GROW stands for Germans from Russia, Oregon, Washington chapter.



Real leather German lederhosen in craftsmanship quality for this one of a kind pair of Edelweiss lederhosen brand new mint condition...not a costume! Approx. waist size 32"-34". Includes suspenders and belt. Old World n. Now half the price...\$180. Contact Jeff Nelson jnls88@gmail.com



Wanted: inexpensive piano accordion for RV traveling. Need all keys in working order. Up to \$400. Please send an email describing your accordion that needs a traveling home, with photo. Thank you, Terry Rudd.

RCAC Member, European Take-Out Band

503-869-9429

Upcoming Events:

Accordion Friends USA September 1, 2022

First Thursday of each month at 3:00 pm PST. This group is show elsewhere in this newsletter. People from around the USA gather for an hour to share a solo and/or listen to the beautiful music. If interested, contact Fran Maddox at maddoxfran43@gmail.com

Mt. Angel, Oregon, Oktoberfest

September 15-17

Come join in the fun!

NJO Workshop: Matt Tollentino, Music of the Golden Age Ragtime, Early Jazz and Early Swing.

Concert, Sunday, September 11

Workshops Sept. 12 and 13

Find more information at www.notjusttoompah.org

Music Theory Corner

Lead Sheet & Bass Enhancement

By Betty Jo Simon

I'm delighted to share with you today some of the Bass Patterns that have helped me create interesting bass lines for my Lead Sheets.

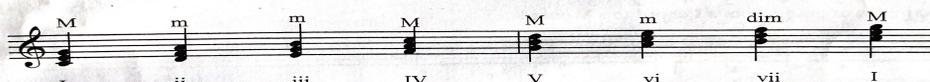
To begin with, we will review all scales: major, minor, with their arpeggios and chromatic scales. With these finger patterns we will learn how and when to use them. I have written out all these scales & arpeggios for you. Once you learn one major scale in the LH, you automatically know all the major scales because they use the same fingering. Likewise with all minor and chromatic scales. It makes transposition easy in LH only!

In creating an interesting Walking Bass, there are 3 basic sequences:

- Diatonic—as in a scale pattern
- Arpeggio—broken notes of the chord
- Chromatic—approach from above or below

I will also give you some Rhythmic patterns for different dance styles

Music Theory 101: If you take a scale and build a triad, in that scale key, above each member of the scale, we now have 7 chords as seen below; 3 major chords, I, IV, V; 3 minor chords ii, iii, vi; and one diminished chord vii. We give the chords numbers using Roman Numerals to identify which chord they are in that key. This is important as we discuss chord progressions.



The Beauty of the LH stradella system is that it teaches you the Circle of 5th. The most used chords in many songs are I, IV, and V. And they are in close proximity to each other.

Learn key signatures by LH bass system

Buttons above C are the sharp keys
Buttons below C are the flat keys

The distance away from C are the number of accidentals of that key:

1. Ex. D is 2 buttons above C so the key of D has 2 sharps
2. Ex Bb is 2 buttons below C so the Key of Bb has 2 flats

The sequence of sharps are: F#, C#, G#, D#, A#, E#, B# Do you see a pattern?
The sequence of flats are: Bb, Eb, Ab, Db, Gb, Cb, Fb Do you see a pattern?



John Mohney Experiencing the Accordion 50's Boom Submitted by Bobbie Ferrero



John spent his formative years in Three Rivers, MI, near the Indiana border. At the age of ten, he started accordion lessons from a lady who owned a music studio. His experiences for the next six years were not solely with private lessons. As John was relating his accordion activities during those years, it brought back memories of how I also remember my experiences and those of others I've met across the US. I think the accordion boom of the 50s has never been equaled by any other instrument.

John's teacher had around 75-80 students. These students met regularly to participate in one of her three bands, beginner/intermediate/senior. John worked his way up through all three. For the recitals each year, the students had to memorize pieces and perform them in front of large crowds with attendance

between 200 and 300 people. There were also accordion contests. John entered these contests yearly in Michigan City, IN where he played in front of judges. The last year he participated, in mid fifties, brought him a Blue Ribbon in class B. When asked what piece he played, he remembered "Wind in the Willows". The contest did not end here. The winners were sent to Chicago and played at the Palmer House (google it) for the Chicagoland Music Festival sponsored by the Chicago Tribune. In the evening the 80 accordion players gathered at Soldiers Field to present a concert.

The teacher provided many gigs for the students to play. These included grange halls, churches, or clubs where entertainment was needed. John had a lot of playing exposure, sometimes as duets, trios or the entire band.

During his high school years, he set aside the accordion and took up the baritone (similar to euphonium) to play in the school band. He grew up on a dairy farm where his time was taken up with farm duties along with school work. Because he was serious about studies, there was left little time to play the accordion. After high school he went off to Michigan Tech and graduated in civil engineering.

After graduation, John took a job in Eureka, CA with the forest service. His accordion did go with him and he played occasionally. Then he moved to the San Francisco area for work. Eventually he and his family were transferred to Portland. It was in Portland that he decided to take up accordion lessons partly as a way to encourage his son to play. He found Eileen Hagen and the son/father duo took lessons for about four years. It was during this time, around 1980, that John traded in his student accordion to Eileen for his first Petosa. Presently, he is playing his second Petosa.

John was busy with work during the next 30 years and had little time to play the accordion but picked it up sporadically. Then in 2012 he retired and moved to Stayton, OR. For the first time he went to the Mount Angel Oktoberfest and met Marlene Meissner there (surprise) who introduced him to RCAC where he now regularly plays. The first Rose City Accordion Camp he attended was in 2018. John met Courtney Von Drehle there and began taking lessons from him. Along with learning new techniques and diverse musical pieces, John is also being guided through musical arranging. John frequently plays these delightful arrangements at club.

Aside from John's musical adventure, he spent his civil engineering career building logging roads and bridges up and down the Oregon coast, Sierras, Blue Mountains and the Cascades for the forest service. After retiring from the forest service he worked for a consulting service.

John and his wife, Judy, are enjoying their retirement as water color artists. John works at the 3rd Easel Gallery in Stayton once a week where he also entertains the visitors with accordion selections. Again he and his wife will join talents by playing the Hawaiian Wedding Song at a relative's wedding in September, John on accordion and Judy on the ukulele.

Thank you, John, for supporting RCAC.



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